

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 01607 041841Z

64

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 H-01 SY-04 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 /029 W
----- 023747

R 041635Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6681
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 1607

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CASC, IN
SUBJECT: HARCOS/FLETCHER: DONOVAN'S CONVERSATIONS WITH
GOI OFFICIALS IN DELHI

REF: CALCUTTA 02\$37#

1. MISS DONOVAN'S MEETING WITH HOME SECRETARY MUKERJI
JANUARY 31 WAS DISAPPOINTING FOR HER. MUKERJI WAS POLITE
BUT NOT VERY RESPONSIVE. HE HAD JOINT SECRETARY NARASIMHA,
WHO HAS BEEN HANDLING THE CASE IN DELHI, WITH HIM. NARASIMHA
DOMINATED THE CONVERSATION FROM THE INDIAN SIDE, TAKING
A HARD LINE AT ALL TIMES WHILE MUKERJI SAT SILENT. DONOVAN'S
ATTEMPT TO GIVE MUKERJI A COPY OF THE HARCOS/FLETCHER DRAFT
CONFESSION WAS DEFLECTED BY A TURN IN THE CONVERSATION AND
SHE NEVER GOT BACK TO OFFERING IT. MUKERJI ENDED THE HALF-
HOUR DISCUSSION BY FINALLY SAYING THAT IF WAS POSSIBLE FOR
THE GOI TO WITHDRAW A PROSECUTION UNDER THE OFFICIAL SECRETS
ACT BUT THIS WAS DONE ONLY VERY RARELY AND THE CASE IN
QUESTION WAS NOT ONE FOR WHICH AN EXCEPTION WOULD BE MADE.
DONOVAN, PERHAPS GRASPING FOR STRAWS, FOUND SOME LIGHT IN
THE ADMISSION THAT A WITHDRAWAL OF PROSECUTION WAS AT LEAST
POSSIBLE.

2. DONOVAN ON FEBRUARY 1 DRAFTED A LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER
REQUESTING AN INTERVIEW. CHARGE AGREED TO TRANSMIT THE LETTER
TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S PRIVATE SECRETARY P.N. DHAR, AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 01607 041841Z

THIS LETTER WAS SENT OVER TO DHAR'S OFFICE ON THE MORNING

OF FEBRUARY 3. DHAR HAS NOW REGRETTED FOR THE PM BUT OFFERED TO SEE DONOVAN HIMSELF. (DONOVAN HAS GONE BACK TO CALCUTTA AND WILL RETURN TO DELHI ABOUT FEBRUARY 6.) ON FEBRUARY 1 SHE ALSO MET WITH WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER CIY WHO WAS IN DELHI (AT RAY'S INITIATIVE). RAY ASKED HER FOR A SIGNED COPY OF THE CONFESSION WHICH, HE SAID, HE WANTED TO SHOW TO HOME MINISTER BRAMANANDA REDDY IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. UNFORTUNATELY DONOVAN DID NOT HAVE A SIGNED CONFESSION AND RAY FINALLY AGREED TO SHOW THE DRAFT CONFESSION TO REDDY INSTEAD.

3. COMMENT: THE POLITICIANS CONTINUE TO EXPRESS INTEREST IN THE CASE; THE BUREAUCRATS ARE EITHER NEGATIVE OR EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS. THE CHARGE DISCUSSED THE CASE BRIEFLY WITH P.N. DHAR JUST OVER A WEEK AGO AND DHAR EXPRESSED BOTH SURPRISE THAT THE CASE WAS STILL GOING ON AND A STRONG DESIRE IN SEEING IT SETTLED IN THE INTEREST OF INDIA

-US RELATIONS.

THIS, PLUS CHIEF MINISTER RAY'S ACTIVITY, OFFERS THE ONLY ENCOURAGING NOTE IN THE FACE OF THE PERSISTING FOOT-DRAGGING OF THE BUREAUCRACY HERE IN DELHI AND IN CALCUTTA AND THE POSSIBLE DELAYS WHICH THE CHANGE IN JUDGES IN CALCUTTA MAY ENTAIL. END COMMENT.

SCHNEIDER

NOTE BY OCT: NEW DELHI 1607 #AS RECEIVED.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ATTORNEYS, TRIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NEWDE01607
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750041-0344
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750274/aaaacorr.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 CALCUTTA 02\$37#
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <24 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HARCOS/FLETCHER: DONOVAN'S CONVERSATIONS WITH GOI OFFICIALS IN DELHI
TAGS: PFOR, CASC, IN, (HARCOS), (FLETCHER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006